

## 2015-K427

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing Women on 20s (W20) for their work in highlighting American currency in an effort to emphasize the impact of women throughout the history of the United States

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend Women on 20s for their work in highlighting American currency in an effort to emphasize the impact of women throughout the history of the United States, and to call upon President Barack Obama to order the Secretary of the Treasury to consider changing the current portrait portrayed on our American \$20 bank note to reflect the remarkable accomplishments of a significant woman who has helped shape our Nation's great history; and WHEREAS, Given the numerous contributions of immeasurable value women have made to our great State and Nation it follows that they should be honored with representation and memorialization on our nation's bank notes; and

WHEREAS, Six of the sixteen semifinalist candidates chosen by Women on 20s, two of whom were selected as finalists, were residents and contributors to New York State which gives all New Yorkers something to be proud of; and

WHEREAS, Semifinalist Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) a New York native, the First African-American woman elected to Congress, and first majority-party black candidate for U.S. President was an advocate for minorities, women and children whose contributions changed public perception of the capabilities of women and African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Semifinalist Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) moved to New York as a child and lived there until her death, became a leader in both the abolition and suffrage movements by establishing organizations, petition drives, publications, and campaigning widely for passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Semifinalist Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902), a lifelong New Yorker is called the "founding genius" of the women's rights movement; she convened the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, declaring, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal," inspiring a generation of suffragists; and

WHEREAS, Semifinalist Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was born in New York, where she lived until her later years; she popularized the term "birth control" and opened the first U.S. birth control clinic leading to her arrest and trial for disseminating information on contraception; additionally, she helped in court cases leading to legalization of contraception in the United States and pioneered Planned Parenthood; and

WHEREAS, Finalist Harriet Tubman (c.1822-1913) was born a slave; she fled to the North for freedom, later making 19 trips back to the South as the conductor of the Underground Railroad, leading some 300 slaves to freedom; in addition, she was a nurse during the Civil War, and served the Union army as a scout and spy; she was also active in the women's suffrage movement after the war, and made her final home in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Finalist Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) once the first lady of New York, went on to be nicknamed by Harry Truman "First Lady of the World" after she redefined the role of First Lady, using her newspaper column, radio and speeches to champion civil and women's rights, often in opposition to her husband FDR's policies, continuing on her leadership as one of the first United States delegates to the UN, and drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, Changing the current portrait portrayed on our American \$20 bank note to reflect the remarkable accomplishments of a significant

woman who has helped shape our Nation's great history, is in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to decide which significant woman will be honored with this auspicious designation, W20, under the direction of

its Founder, Barbara Ortiz Howard, and its Executive Director, Susan Ades Stone, are conducting a public vote in order to decide who should be the first woman portrayed on our nation's paper currency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize Women on 20s (W20) for their work in highlighting American currency in an effort to emphasize the impact of women throughout the history of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Barbara Ortiz Howard, Founder, W20; President of the United States Barack Obama; and United States Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew.